were brought within the purview of those rules in 1089. With a view to the development of the jaggery industry, which flourishes to a considerable extent in Neyyattinkara, the whole of that taluk has been exempted from the operation of the sweet toddy rules. These rules are now in force throughout the State, except in the Padmanabhapuram Division and in the taluks of Neyyattinkara and Shencottah. 1,13,723 proof gallons of country spirits were consumed in 1090, against 1,39,081 proof gallons in 1089, showing a decrease of 18·2 per cent. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State also fell from 36,621 gallons to 29,217 gallons. These figures would have been gratifying if they indicated any improvement in temperance. The fact, however, is that the altered economic conditions brought on by the war seriously affected the purchasing power of the drinking population, particularly in the sea-board taluks, where the copra and coir industries suffered to an unprecedented extent.

15 **Opium and ganja.**—The quantity of opium and ganja issued to vend contractors was 5,120 seers and 4,361 seers, against 5,427 seers and 5,544 seers, respectively, in 1089. The price of opium remained the same, *viz.*, Bh. Rs. 40 per seer, while the price of ganja was raised from Bh. Rs. 16-4-0 to Bh. Rs. 18-12-0. The Opium Regulation, IV of 1090, came into force from the 1st Makaram 1090.

16. **Tobacco.**—In respect of this article also the total sales fell from 16,510 candies in 1089 to 15,073 candies in 1090. The fall is, again, attributed to the decreased purchasing power of the people caused by the war.

17. **Receipts and Expenditure.**—The gross revenue from "Excise", under which abkari, opium and ganja, and tobacco are included, rose from Rs. 33,16,313 to Rs. 33,85,272 and the expenditure from Rs. 2,88,801 to Rs. 3,12,305. The net revenue also rose from Rs. 30,27,512 to Rs. 30,72,967.

18. **Customs.**—Of the total duty levied, that on exports amounted to 94·5 per cent and that on imports to 5·5 per cent. The export duty fell from Rs. 12,99,547 to Rs. 10,89,676 and the import duty from Rs. 83,288 to Rs. 62,368. In the result, the total net customs revenue stood at Rs. 11,47,366, against Rs. 13,67,980 in 1089. Fishing for shanks or pearl oysters in, and their removal from, the Travancore territorial waters, were prohibited during the year. A contract has been recently given for the collection of shanks.

PROTECTION.

19. **Legislation.**—Four ordinary meetings of the Legislative Council were held in 1090, and nine Regulations passed. The question of establishing Village Panchayat Courts in pursuance of Regulation I of 1090 is under the consideration of Government. Besides the above Regulations, Regulation II of 1090 was passed direct by His Highness the Maha Raja, to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Regulation I of 1091 has been passed, in amendment of Regulation III of 1086, so as to make the British sovereigns and half-sovereigns legal tender in Travancore. Among the Bills before the Council, the Bill to amend the Companies Regulation, the Bill to define and amend the law of marriage and the right accruing on such marriage among the Nanjanad Marumakkattayam Vellalas, the Bill to amend the Land Conservancy Regulation, the Bill to amend the Copyright Regulation, the Glanders and Farcy Bill, the Destructive Insects and Pests Bill and the Christian Succession Bill are worthy of special mention. The report of the Select Committee on the last Bill has been received and considered by the Council. A comprehensive Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation has been submitted for the consideration of the Government by the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. A Committee consisting of an official President and four non-official members, two of whom are Jenmies and the remaining two Kudiyans, was appointed to enquire into the working of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation, V of 1071. The Committee, after collecting evidence on the various points they have to consider, are now engaged in the preparation of their report.

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